

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 023069

11

ORIGIN NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 FEA-02 INT-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SCI-06 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 /122 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:JHHAWES:AM

APPROVED BY NEA/INS:LBLAINGEN

NEA/INS:DWBORN

EB/ORF/FSE:

----- 063140

R 042141Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 023069

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IN

SUBJ: GOI PURCHASE OF 74 PERCENT OF ESSO INDIA REFINERY

REF: NEW DELHI 924

1. BIRKHEAD, ESSO EASTERN, CALLED AT DEPT. FEB. 1 TO DISCUSS STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOI. HE SAID ESSO HAD BEEN CAUGHT TOTALLY BY SURPRISE BY GOI ANNOUNCEMENT JAN. 18 OF "AGREEMENT." NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY AND INTENSELY, WITH TARGET DATE IN NEAR FUTURE -- POSSIBLY FEW WEEKS -- BUT FOR MOMENT NOTHING HAS BEEN SIGNED. DESPITE SURPRISE AT ANNOUNCEMENT, HE SAID ESSO WAS PLEASED BY GENERALLY FRIENDLY MANNER IN WHICH PRESS HAD TREATED PROSPECTIVE AGREEMENT.

2. BIRKHEAD LEFT WITH DEPT. TEXT OF PRIVATE INTERNAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 023069

GUIDANCE TELEGRAM SENT ESSO OFFICES CONCERNING NEGOTIATIONS

AND GOI ANNOUNCEMENT. GUIDANCE EMPHASIZES THAT COMPANY DECISION TO SELL" IS A BUSINESS DECISION BASED SOLELY ON FACTORS RELATED TO INDIAN BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT. EXPECTED SALE, JUST AS WAS THE CASE IN PHILLIPPINES, SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS PART OF GENERAL ESSO WITHDRAWAL FROM ASIA." BIRKHEAD NOTED THAT ESSO HAD RECEIVED INQUIRIES FROM US JOURNALISTS SEEKING TO PORTRAY SALE NEGOTIATIONS AS ESSENTIALLY HOSTILE GOI PUSH FOR NATIONALIZATION, WHICH MIS-IMPRESSION ESSO IS ANXIOUS TO QUASH.

3. BIRKHEAD SAID ESSO WAS CONCERNED AT RUMORS THAT A.P. VERMA, JOINT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS, WITH WHOM THEY HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING, MIGHT BE TRANSFERRED PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF AGREEMENT, WITH CONSEQUENT SETBACK TO CURRENT MOMENTUM. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENT ON THIS. KISSINGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, SALES, REFINERIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE023069
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JHHAWES:AM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740257/aaaacbk.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NEW DELHI 924
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOI PURCHASE OF 74 PERCENT OF ESSO INDIA REFINERY
TAGS: ENRG, IN, ESSO
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005